

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

JULY 13, 2011

In attendance at the meeting: Commission Members: John P. Chiota, Esq., Chairman; William Holden, Vice Chairman; Gail J. Hanna, Secretary; James Cordone, Esq.; Russell Friedson; and Paul Timpanelli.

Also present: Robert Maslan, Esq.
Tom Kiely, Chief of Police
Carl Massaro, Chairman, Town Council
Roy Fuchs, Trumbull PATCH
Aaron Leo, Trumbull PATCH
Cindy Katske, Trumbull, CT
Chadwick Ciocci, Trumbull, CT

Meeting Called to Order: 7:20pm

Approval of the Minutes

MOTION made by P. Timpanelli to approve the Minutes dated July 5, 2011, seconded by R. Friedson.

Vote: carried unanimously.

J. Chiota indicated he is in the process of obtaining quotes for the printing of the Charter.

P. Timpanelli submitted comments on CHAPTER II. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
(a copy of which is attached).

Chief Kiely submitted the new language for a new section, "Office of Emergency Management", which will replace section, "Civil Preparedness"

MOTION made by R. Friedson to replace Civil Preparedness with Office of Emergency Management in CHAPTER III. EXECUTIVE BRANCH, Section 13, subject to Emergency Medical Services and Fire Marshal review, seconded by P. Timpanelli.

Vote: carried unanimously.

There was a discussion regarding the letter from the Police Union regarding language in CHAPTER VII. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, Section 8. Police Commission, which had been previously deleted regarding hiring within the department. The commission agreed this language should stay in the Charter.

G. Hanna (arrived at 7:25pm) indicated to the commission that she has spoken with Mary Ann Meier, Human Resources, and it was agreed that the Civil Service Board should stay in the Charter. Including the following new language: “C. If the Civil Service Board is requested to fill a position by the First Selectman and is unable to do so within six (6) months, the Human Resources Director shall have the option of filling the position directly.”

J. Chiota submitted his cover letter to the Town Council regarding the Charter Revision, i.e. the procedure for approval of the draft of the Charter, ballot questions, printing (copy attached). The commission will discuss further at the next meeting.

The commission went through the Town Council – Legislation & Administration Committee – Votes dated July 7, 2011.

The following changes were made to the Charter:

CHAPTER II. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, Section 2. Composition and election. New language: “In each district no political party may nominate more than one (1) less than the number of Councilmen to be elected from the district and each voter may vote for as many Council members as may be elected from the district.”

CHAPTER III. EXECUTIVE BRANCH, Section 2. Powers and duties. Delete the language for subparagraph (j).

MOTION made by W. Holden to change the following paragraph in CHAPTER II. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, Section 2, the last paragraph to read as follows: “In each district no political party may nominate more than one (1) less than the number of Councilmen to be elected from the district and each voter may vote for as many Council members as may be elected from the district.”, seconded by P. Timpanelli.

Vote: carried unanimously.

MOTION made by W. Holden to insert the following language: “of the entire Town Council” in CHAPTER III. EXECUTIVE BRANCH, Section 6G(g), seconded by R. Friedson.

Vote: carried unanimously.

CHAPTER III. EXECUTIVE BRANCH, Section 6G. New language: (h) Upon change of administration, no contract may be signed from the date of the election to the installation of new officers “unless authorized by 2/3 of the Town Council present and voting”.

CHAPTER VII. BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, Section 11. Park and Recreation Commission. New language should be changed from “Park” to “**Parks**”.

MOTION made by J. Chiota to leave the terms at two (2) years for the First Selectman, the Town Treasurer, and the Town Clerk, seconded by G. Hanna.

Vote: carried unanimously.

The commission agreed that W. Holden and R. Friedson will work on CHAPTER VIII. ELECTORAL PROCESS.

R. Friedson noted the following Town Council concerns regarding the referendum:

- In favor overall of a 5% signature requirement instead of 3%.
- A straight signature not tied to a threshold. There would be no formula for having a referendum.
- Agreed it should be a one-shot only on the referendum.
- Regarding turnout, it doesn’t need any minimum required quorum.
- Consequences of what happened if the public rejects it.

It was also agreed that R. Friedson will draft a new proposal regarding the referendum.

R. Friedson submitted CPI data of 20 years which he prepared (copy attached).

J. Chiota’s issues:

- 5% signature requirement.
- Minimum vote requirement.
- Cap of 3 ½%. J. Cordone indicated this would open up to a legal challenge. J. Cordone agreed if language is clear. The commission agreed to revisit this issue at the next meeting.

The commission agreed that the language for the Board of Education should include seven (7) members for two (2) year terms and all elected at once.

W. Holden with re-write new language for the Board of Education section.

The commission discussed if they have any questions for the ballot. It was agreed that there are no specific questions.

The next Charter Revision Commission meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2011, at 7:00pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:34pm

Respectfully submitted:

Marilou Mangiamele, Commission Clerk